

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 5-8 are currently being amended. Support for the amendment to claim 5 can be found at least in FIG. 4, and in the specification in paragraph [0024], for example. New claim 9 is being added. Support for this new claim can be found at least in FIG. 4 and the corresponding description in the specification. No new matter is being added.

This amendment adds and changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 5-9 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,831,881 to Takashima et al. ("Takashima"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 5, as amended, recites:

An optical pickup apparatus comprising:

an optical pickup base on which a laser light source and an optical system are installed, wherein the optical system includes an objective lens movable in a focusing direction and a tracking direction, and records information on an optical recording medium or reproduces information from the optical recording medium with a laser beam from the laser light source;

a supporting frame comprising a pickup carriage that supports the optical pickup base movably in the tracking direction;

a turntable on which the optical recording medium is placed;

a protective cover that is fixed to the supporting frame such that the protective cover is arranged between the optical recording medium placed on

the turntable and the optical pickup base, the protective cover protecting the pickup carriage; and

a heat conducting member that is connected to the optical pickup base and the protective cover, and conducts heat generated in the optical pickup base to the protective cover.

Takashima fails to disclose or suggest the claimed optical pickup apparatus, including at least the above italicized feature where the protective cover protects the pickup carriage, which supports the optical pickup base movably in the tracking direction. The Patent Office equates the optical head cover 133, and base 115 of Takashima with the protective cover, and optical pickup base, respectively, as recited in claim 5. In contrast to claim 5, however, the optical head cover 133 does not protect any pickup carriage of the Takashima device, which movably supports the base 115. The Takashima optical head cover 133 has a relatively small area and is only mounted over a part of optical bench 116 that moves with the base 115, and thus the cover 133 is not configured to protect the carrying mechanism for the base such as the shaft illustrated in Fig. 25 of Takashima. Thus, Takashima does not have a protective cover which protects the pickup carriage, which supports the optical pickup base movably in the tracking direction, as recited in claim 5.

Moreover, because the protective cover of claim 5 must be relatively larger to protect the pickup carriage, the protective cover functions as a much larger heat radiator than the cover 133 of Takashima. Thus the protective cover of claim 5 provides better cooling than that of the Takashima system.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 5, from which they depend.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 27, 2006

By Glenn Law

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438